

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07  
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00  
/059 W  
-----270750Z 060018 /21

R 261803Z MAY 77  
FM USMISSION NATO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3851  
SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L NATO 04155

NOFORN

SECDEF FOR ISA, DDR&E, C3I

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: NATO, ETEL, MARR  
SUBJECT: INTEROPERABILITY AND SECURITY OF MILITARY  
COMMUNICATIONS IN NATO

REF: (A) AC/259-DS/19, (B) DPC-VR(77)11, (C) C-R(76)49

PART I, (D) C-M(76)70(REVISED)

SUMMARY: AT THE 23 MAY 1977 MEETING OF THE NATIONAL  
ARMAMENTS DIRECTORS REPRESENTATIVES (NADREPS), THE BELGIAN  
AND NETHERLANDS REPS REQUESTED AN EXPLANATION OF SECDEF  
BROWN'S PROPOSAL AT THE 18 MAY DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING TO  
EXPEDITE THE INTEROPERABILITY OF TACTICAL AREA COMMUNICA-  
TIONS. CHAIRMAN LABERGE REQUESTED THE US REP TO PROVIDE A  
WRITTEN EXPLANATION AT THE NEXT NADREP MEETING SCHEDULED  
FOR 6 JUNE. REQUEST WASHINGTON GUIDANCE BY 3 JUNE. END  
SUMMARY.

1. AS REPORTED BY SEPTEL, THE NADREPS MET ON 23 MAY 77.  
THE REPORT OF THE DISCUSSION CONCERNING INTEROPERABILITY  
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AND SECURITY OF MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS IN NATO FOLLOWS  
(REF A, ITEM V(C)).

2. THE BELGIAN REP (QUANIERS) AND THE NL REP (SOETENS)  
ASKED FOR AN EXPLANATION OF THE STATEMENTS MADE BY SECDEF  
BROWN AT THE 18 MAY DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING IN WHICH HE  
TABLED A US PROPOSAL TO EXPEDITE THE INTEROPERABILITY OF

TACTICAL AREA COMMUNICATIONS (REF B).

3. THE BELGIAN REP SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED AN EXPLANATION OF THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE US PROPOSAL TO THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE MINISTERS AT THE 9 DEC 76 MEETING (REF C, PAR 8(1)) IN WHICH THEY NOTED THE 2D REPORT BY THE AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT ON EQUIPMENT INTEROPERABILITY (REF D) AND AGREED TO TAKE THE ACTIONS SET OUT IN PAR 6 OF THE REPORT.

4. FYI: IN A FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH THE BELGIAN REP AFTER THE MEETING HE REVIEWED THE SUBJECT AS BELGIUM VIEWED IT. BELGIUM, AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE, HAD NOT IMMEDIATELY AGREED TO THE DECISION RECOMMENDED TO THE MINISTERS SINCE BELGIUM BELIEVED, IF ALL NATIONS DESIRED TO EXPEDITE INTEROPERABILITY OF TACTICAL AREA COMMUNICATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE VIA A COMMON SYSTEM, THEY COULD HAVE ADOPTED THE RITA SYSTEM. BELGIUM KNEW FULL WELL THAT SOME NATIONS WOULD NOT ACCEPT RITA, AND THAT THE US, UK, FRG, FRANCE, NETHERLANDS, AND ITALY WERE EACH COMMITTED, IN VARIOUS DEGREES, TO THEIR OWN TACTICAL AREA COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS. FURTHER, EACH OF THE NATIONS HAD AGREED TO PROVIDE A STANDARD NATO INTERFACE DEVICE AND WERE ACTIVELY PURSUING THIS AGREEMENT. GIVEN THESE FACTS, BELGIUM BELIEVES THAT ANY EFFORT BY THE NATIONS TO REEXAMINE THE PROBLEM CAN ONLY LEAD TO THE SAME CONCLUSIONS AS BEFORE. FINALLY, IN VIEW OF THE MINISTERIAL DECISION REACHED IN DECEMBER, IN WHICH THE MINISTERS AGREED TO CONTINUE WITH APPROACHES A AND B, INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT OF INTERFACE DEVICES (REF D, PAR 6(3)(I), HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND THE

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UTILITY OF THE US PROPOSAL. END FYI.

5. THE NADREP CHAIRMAN (ASYG LABERGE) REQUESTED THE US REP (HARVILL) TO PROVIDE A RESPONSE FOR THE NEXT MEETING, AND SUGGESTED THAT IT BE PROVIDED IN WRITING TO ALL THE NADREPS PRIOR TO THE MEETING TO ALLOW THEM TO STUDY THE RESPONSE.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE BY 3 JUNE.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** AC/259-DS/19, DPC-VR(77)11, C-R(76)49, PART I, C-M(76)70(REVISED)  
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**Subject:** INTEROPERABILITY AND SECURITY OF MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS IN NATO  
**TAGS:** ETEL, MARR, NATO  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009